





Our readers are generally aware of the death of this eminent gentleman, which took place at Boston on Saturday the 18th instant. As his illness had been protracted and but little hope entertained of his life for several weeks, no surprise could be felt at the announcement of his decease. But the fact of the death of a man who was so prominently connected with the history of the country for the last twenty years, is one that cannot but attract attention and recall the more salient points of his career. Mr. Lawrence was an enterprising and successful merchant, at the time when Domestic Manufactures began to attract attention, saw the capabilities of this new branch of business, and by directing his energies towards its development, connected with his mercantile transactions a profuse fortune. Had this been all, he would have deserved and received but a passing notice, such as is given in these virtues which are essentially their own reward, demands the press and the people.

But Mr. Lawrence's success as a merchant, his life and what he has done, or, indeed, as a public man, is the common property as it is the common interest of all. He had at one time a great and prevailing influence over the New England Whigs, and so over the friends and actions of that once powerful, though now palsied, party throughout the country. What that influence was used for the highest good of the country is a question open to all opinions.

Mr. Lawrence's talents as a man of affairs must have been great, for a man can make and manage a great business and a vast estate without extraordinary abilities. But his public career does not seem to have shown that they were of an order capable of grasping and disposing of the great questions he had encountered. The character of his mind seems to have been eminently commercial. He looked at public affairs more as a merchant from his country-ways than as a Statesman from his closet. Very naturally, from his education and pursuits, he put an over-value on material results and estimated the character of public events by the influence they were likely to have on the balance of the ledger at the end of the year. He was virtually sent to Congress to watch over and promote the manufacturing interests of the country, with which his own were so closely connected. The question of a Protective Tariff was then a living one, and Mr. Lawrence had done his share by his voice and pen and purse to keep it alive. But either the spirit of the age or the natural antipathy of the Slaveholders to whatever seemed likely to benefit the North exclusively, has disposed of it for long years and has left to its partisans only the indirect helping of a Revenue Tariff, and the poor consolation of making and keeping the expenses of the Government at as high a point as possible to seem its reduction. That Mr. Lawrence honestly believed the stimulation of manufacturers to be the true policy of the country, as well as the one that answered his own purposes best, we are ready to believe. Whether these opinions, so fast becoming obsolete in the growing fight of political economy and experience, indicated a high order of mind on the part of one maintaining them, is a question which all can settle for themselves.

It was, however, at the time of the impending Annexation of Texas that Mr. Lawrence showed himself unequal to the emergency that met him face to face. The plot for *coup d'état* had been exposed by John Quincy Adams and the other Northern and Western members of Congress. They had warned the people of what was inevitable, if they did not rally to the rescue. The public mind was strongly stirred, though it had been the policy of the Whig as well as of the Democratic papers to allay alarm and excitement as to the Annexation, as a crime so abominable as to be an impossibility. But the people looked around for leaders. In the North, generally, and especially in Massachusetts, the Gibraltor of Whiggism, they looked to the Whigs as the men the crisis called for. Mr. Webster came on from Washington earnestly desirous of distinguishing himself as the champion of the North, if he could only be backed by the men who had always stood behind him. At his suggestion the Anti-Texas Convention was called in the winter of 1844-5. He wrote the Address. The Whigs were earnestly entreated to come in to the Movement. But they coldly stood back. Instead of helping to fan the flame, they threw cold water on it. Mr. Lawrence was never more influential in his party and in his region than that time, and when he was advised to put himself by the side of the uncompromising enemies of that fatal measure, he refused, saying, that resistance to it "would be attended with bad results!" Mr. Nathan Appleton pronounced it to be "too late!" So the task of resisting the Admission of Texas was left to a handful of men, chiefly Whigs, who were virtually read out of their party at the time and soon driven formally to leave it. Mr. Lawrence assumed a fearful responsibility, and he must be held largely accountable for the deplorable consequences that have followed.

That was the cardinal moment on which the destiny of the nation turned. What a difference would it not have made in our later history had a successful stand been made at that time! And a resolute stand would have been successful. The slaveholders were not as they are now. Had a single State made it clear that it would not submit to the usurpation; but that it was ready to resist even to revolution, and they would have stayed their hands. And Massachusetts only wanted lead to organize such a determined resistance. But the government was at that time eminently a *Ploughocracy*, or rule of rich men, and men not of the metal which the Hancocks and Bowdines of seventy years before were made. They displayed a determined and unmistakable resistance to the aggressions of tyranny as "too late!" and as leading to "bad results!" The gap in the dyke was left unguarded and the tide rushed in which has carried everything before it ever since. Had the flood been stayed when it should have had Mexican War, no new Territory torn from Mexico for slaves, no Fugitive Slave Bill, no repeal of the Missouri Compromise, no Slave-invasion of Kansas. The black and bloody pages of our history would not have been written. General Taylor might have been alive and unheard of as a frontier Colonel of Infantry, and Daniel Webster might have still lived a mighty Senator than his haters ever imagined. He would then have found that there was a North. With his heart full of contempt of the party with which he had always acted, he would not have thrown himself, in the despair of his old age, at the feet of the Slaveholders as the only men with a cause to maintain and rewards to bestow. With his dying hand, too, he would not have dealt a deadly blow at the party which had always sustained him in public life and in private, and Mr. Lawrence would not have lived to see that party so proud and defiant ten years ago in Massachusetts and of which his word was law, dashed to pieces and ground to powder, so that no political microscope is strong enough to detect its particles in their infinitesimal communion.

Mr. Lawrence in private life was of an irreproachable character, of kind and conciliatory manners, of a charitable heart, and an open and generous hand. Nor do we rank him with the worst of class politicians. We believe that he looked upon the conduct of Mr. Webster in 1850 and the crime he helped to organize, as the great mass of men now regard them, and trust that no temptation could have bent his personal integrity, much as he loved public life and political honours, to pay that price of infamy for the hope or certainty of the highest place that vainglory could present. Nor do we suppose that he would admit that all this progeny of evil sprung from what he did or refused to do when Texas was thundering at the gates of the Capital. We believe, however, that the sequence was as inevitable as the connection of any links that the most iron logic ever forged. We do not suppose that he saw the beginning from the end or deliberately planned the mischiefs which the timid, if not soft-spirited, members of the Whig Party at that fearful crisis occasioned. He and they built worse than they knew. His misfortune was that he was promoted beyond his capacity

—was given a command he was incompetent to fill. Taken from the affairs of business, from the manipulation of capital, the keen pursuit, and liberal and hospitable dispensation of wealth, for all which no man was better fitted, he assumed or had thrust upon him political influence at the very most critical moment of our history. He either lacked discrimination to perceive, or nerve to perform

what the Time demanded. And for this we and Postively will just hold him accountable. His motives he can plead at the Bar of that Tribunal to which he has gone to render his Account. God looketh on the heart; Man on the outward appearance only. What men do, we and by that alone can we judge them. When an action is attended by consequences deeply affecting the deepest interests of men and which reach far into the Future, mankind wisely holds the actor in a perpetual remembrance. Nor does this stem Memory refuse to dwell with the purest Charity. To Forgive is Wisdom; to Forget is Folly. It is to Remembering, only, that men achieve the progressions which is their task on earth.

#### KANSAS LEGISLATION.

The body which calls itself the Kansas Legislature is still in session, as busy as "a dozen of birds in a gale of wind," with a like good will and purpose, if we judge merely from the last specimen of its attempt at law-making, which we publish below. This act had really passed the Lower House, unanimously, and there is no reason, that we know of, to doubt that it will, for a time, at least, become the law of the land. Nor is there any room to doubt that it will be rigorously enforced. On this point we have substantial evidence in the proceedings of a late meeting at Atchison, a report of which, from the *Quatter Sovereign*, may be found upon our first page. A Mr. Kelly, it seems, had attempted to express openly his disapprobation of slavery, and when he fell silent, the prison doors resolved to go into the court in haste, and demand the person of the writer as a master of right. Consequently, a printed document, a petition from Mr. Williamson, asking, not as a favour, but as a master of right, that a writ of habeas corpus should be issued according to the act of Assembly in such case made and provided, and directed to the keeper of the prison, commanding him to bring before the Court the body of the petitioner to do and cause to be done to him all such acts as the law directs in the case of the Legislature. The people will execute the laws, without waiting for the slow action of legal process. Even Judge Kane was the Chief of the Territory, as he ought to be, was compelled to satisfy the popular will, and when he failed to do so, all the Abolitionists, excepting for contempt, for life, all who could not be proved to be such, and should plead not guilty of the charge against them. There will be no difficulty, however, in procuring a conviction under so carefully constructed and ingenious an act. To take a Bible, the Declaration of Independence, a copy of Spark's Washington or one of Jefferson's "Notes," or, indeed, almost any popular and standard work, except it be some of Harper's expurgated editions, or the publications of the American Society, is a penal offence, and will subject the offender to several years of confinement in the Penitentiary. The only safe way will be to carry no books at all, and immigrants must look to the lining of their old-fashioned trunks, and be careful to conceal them in the folds of their garments. Indeed, it is an abstract act in regard to the system of slavery, so as to cover all the evils of it, and it will hardly be safe for a man to enter the Territory with a tongue in his mouth, for a very simple question may extract the wary traveler into a confession of open criminality. One hardly knows, in short, which, in such a law, to admire, its severity or its intricacy. It is as follows:

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Sec. 4. If any slave shall enter, escape, or be imported into any slaveholding state, or into any state or territory, he shall suffer death, or be imprisoned at hard labour for not less than ten years.  
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Sec. 11. If any person, or write, introduce into, publish or circulate any paper, or book, or pamphlet, or circulating within, the Territory, book, paper, or circular, containing any denial of the rights of persons to hold slaves, or any statement that it is wrong to hold slaves, shall be punished by imprisonment at hard labour for not less than five years.  
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Sec. 15. No person who is conscientiously opposed to holding slaves, shall sit as a juror, on the trial of any person charged with any violation of any sections of this act to be in force after Sept. 15, 1855.

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#### Our Philadelphia Correspondent.

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#### POLITICS.

Washington Hunt, formerly Governor of New York, has written a letter, in which, with worse than asinine folly, he opposes the Republican movement and avows his purpose to cling to the Whig party! Mr. Greeley, scatters his poor sophistry to the winds and leaves him not even a peg by which to support himself. The black and bloody pages of our history would not have been written. General Taylor might have been alive and unheard of as a frontier Colonel of Infantry, and Daniel Webster might have still lived a mighty Senator than his haters ever imagined. He would then have found that there was a North. With his heart full of contempt of the party with which he had always acted, he would not have thrown himself, in the despair of his old age, at the feet of the Slaveholders as the only men with a cause to maintain and rewards to bestow. With his dying hand, too, he would not have dealt a deadly blow at the party which had always sustained him in public life and in private, and Mr. Lawrence would not have lived to see that party so proud and defiant ten years ago in Massachusetts and of which his word was law, dashed to pieces and ground to powder, so that no political microscope is strong enough to detect its particles in their infinitesimal communion.

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what, in favour of the restoration of that ordinance of freedom. The injustice and iniquity of that repeal should never be forgotten, nor should the people of the free States rest satisfied with anything short of its renewal. If it cannot be restored in fact by the perpetual exclusion of the Slaveholding Territories from admission into the Union, and the character and with the attribute of free status. Mr. Butler does not doubt the sentiments of a large portion of the Democracy of the State. And his letter is a sign of the success of the fusion movement in this quarter.

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Sec. 35. If any person shall attempt to carry any slave out of the master of his master or owner \* \* \* or shall aid any slave in escape, he shall be imprisoned at hard labour for not less than ten years.

Sec. 36. If any person shall attempt to carry any slave out of the master of his master or owner \* \* \* or shall aid any slave in escape, he shall be imprisoned at hard labour for not less than ten years.

Sec. 37. If any person shall attempt to carry any slave out of the master of his master or owner \* \* \* or shall aid any slave in escape, he shall be imprisoned at hard labour for not less than ten years.

Sec. 38. If any person shall attempt to carry any slave out of the master of his master or owner \* \* \* or shall aid any slave in escape, he shall be imprisoned at hard labour for not less than ten years.

Sec. 39. If any person shall attempt to carry any slave out of the master of his master or owner \* \* \* or shall aid any slave in escape, he shall be imprisoned

